(a) whether it is a fact that Jammu/ Srinagar branches of the NCCF had purchased large quantity of rice and wheat worth over Rs. 1 crore in 1983-84 directly through a fraudulent deal with a private party without any tenders and quotations;

(b) whether the purchases were approved by the Competent Authority;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted into this deal;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) who are the officers involved in this scandal and what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L BHAGAT): (a) to (e) NCCF has informed that in September 1983, Jammu & Kashmir Government placed an order with Srinagar Branch of NCCF to supply 2500 MTs. of IR-8 Rice and 10,000 MTs. of wheat. NCCF obtained offers from five parties and finalised the deal of purchase of rice and wheat with the firm quoting the lowest rates. Srinagar branch of NCCF had purchased 2496 85 MTs. of rice at a total cost of Rs 82 40 lakhs and 284 5 MTs. of wheat at Rs 5.52 lakhs for supply to Jammu & Kashmir Government. The matter has been referred to the CBI for further investigation.

Salary and Allowances of Agricultural Scientists

*509. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Members of Parliament have written to Government for an increase in the salary and allowances of Agricultural Scientists; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

T.V./Radio facilities to MPs/MLAs

*510. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow the MLAs and MPs to explain the problems of their constituencies through T.V. and Radio; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Adequate publicity is being provided by All India Radio and Doordarshan of the visits of Central and state Ministers to review progress of various developmental schemes and drought and flood relief measures in their news bulletins "A Peoples Forum" programme has also been introduced in which public grievances and administrative response to alleviate them are duly highlighted.

Activities of SAARC in prohibition and drug abuse Control

*511 DR BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 461 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th August, 1987 and state:

(a) whether a grant of Rs 243.200 was sanctioned to the Society for